The Protocol of Creative Service: Reading, Writing, and Art

The pursuit of knowledge and the act of creation are essential forms of **Service** to the inner vessel. They keep the mind sharp, minimize **Discord** introduced by passive media, and deepen understanding of the **Golden Way**.

1. Literacy and Reflection: Reading and Writing

Reading and writing are the foundation of cognitive **Clarity** and the primary forms of wholesome entertainment.

A. The Mandate of Universal Wisdom (Reading)

- **Source of Wisdom:** Followers are greatly encouraged to consume all forms of literature, philosophy, and practical knowledge by utilizing **free, legal, publicly available resources**. This includes public libraries, non-profit digital archives, and educational materials freely shared on the internet.
- **The Avoidance of Reliance:** The follower must strive **not to rely solely on television or private, subscription-based digital media** for entertainment. The focus must be on actively engaging the mind through reading and creation.
- **The Vow of Clarity:** Materials that deliberately introduce **Discord** (promoting violence, hatred, or financial exploitation) must be avoided.

B. The Virtue of Writing (Creative Entertainment)

- **Encouraged Forms:** Writing is a primary form of entertainment. Followers are encouraged to write all kinds of **stories, parables, essays, and reports** that use the **Seven Principles** to explore life and resolve conflicts.
- **Poetry and the Closing Tone:** The creation of **poetry and verse** is highly valued. As part of the **Closing (Segment 6)** of the Sunday Gathering, both **men and women** are encouraged and allowed to read a piece of poetry, provided it meets the Pillar's review criteria (see Sunday Gathering Protocol).

2. Art: The Expression of Resonant Tone

Art is recognized as any visual, tactile, or performance expression that attempts to translate internal **Tone** or the principles of **Harmony** into a physical form.

A. The Encouragement of All Mediums

- **Inclusivity:** Followers are strongly encouraged to engage in various art forms, including drawing, painting, sculpture, craft, and digital design. The value is placed on the **Integrity** and **Clarity** of the effort, not the final quality.

- **Art as Service:** Art is a valuable form of **Service** when it is created to beautify the communal space, aid in teaching the **Golden Way**, or bring **Harmony** to a personal dwelling.

B. Art in the Sunday Gathering

- **Visual Offerings:** Visual art (e.g., a painting, a small sculpture, or a woven banner) may be displayed during the service to help illustrate the **Parable of the Week** or the **Collective Tone**.
- **Pillar Review:** Any visual art intended for display in the communal space or during the Sunday Gathering **must be submitted to the Pillar** for review alongside the poetry. The Pillar ensures the piece conveys **Harmony** and aligns with the spiritual themes of the faith, preventing the introduction of visual **Discord**.